Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below; and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____

To Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bank
Army Store,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.A.

From
Sgt. Harold L. Bank, 20416637
(Sender's name)
Co M 167th Inf., APO 31
(Sender's address)
% PM, San Francisco, Calif.

20 May 44
(Date)

Dearest Mother & Daddy:

Well, today is Saturday, and it is raining, so I don't think that I will go to the beach till tomorrow. Well the required time has passed, so I can tell you of the trip over here. You see, we had to wait till a certain time had passed. We left Virginia about 5 days after I called you, and spent 4 days in the Panama Canal. We went ashore and went in Fort Amadore and loafed around one afternoon, and saw a show on shore that night. They had a USO show one night on shore with pretty girls in it. I am sending you today a certificate I got when I crossed the equator. Please frame it and put it in my room. I will exchange it for a better one when I get home someday. We left Balboa, in the Panama Canal, [redacted] We stayed there one more day, and then started the long trip across the wide spahse of Pacific, and I mean it is a big thing. So you see, I didn't get close to San Francisco to see Aunt Minnie. It was a long, tiresome trip, and the Atlantic was real rough the first 3 days, but the Pacific was only rough a little one day. We are living in tents just like in Florida, but there are no floors. The food is all canned, and could be a lot better, but we have to be satisfied with what we have.

The Panama Canal is just like you read and see in pictures, and is just as I had expected. It sure is well protected.

Did you receive the be x of souvinirs that I sent you about 3 weeks ago. You ought to real soon. Please take good care of them, and don't get rid of them, for someday I will tellyou the whole story about those things. I can't in this letter. Why couldn't you get the hint about Ludwig Block when I called you? Huh? I believe you are slipping. Right? A simple hint like that! I am now doing communication work, and am no longer in the office. I know the girl you mentioned from Memphis, Tenn. I dated her once when I was home last December. Cute, huh? Give her my regards the next time you see her, will you? Yes, I can use one of those long knives, if it is a nice one, and not a cheap one. Send me one right away. You remember I wanted one when I was home, and you said you would give me one when I went overseas. Be sure and put a scabbard with it. Right? That is all I need right now, except a box of food. Can you send me Sam Beatty's address and APO number over here? Please do.

That is about all for now, so be good, and write soon, and keep that new set of teeth in yourmouth! Hear?

Love, Harold

V-MAIL